

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A force feedback method, comprising:

placing a receiver at a predetermined height above a plurality of nozzles arranged on a plane, the receiver including a concave center unit that declines radially outward from an axis of symmetry of the receiver to an outer border of the concave center unit and an inclined side surface unit that inclines radially outward from the outer border of the concave center unit with respect to the axis of symmetry,

selecting a nozzle from among a plurality of candidate nozzles arranged on the plane, the selected nozzle having a smallest distance between the selected nozzle and ~~a center~~ the axis of [[a]] symmetry of the receiver, and

jetting a gas or a liquid from the selected nozzle upon ~~[[an]]~~ the inclined side surface unit of the receiver to convey a force in a direction perpendicular to a direction of the jetting gas or liquid, wherein

each of the plurality of candidate nozzles is positioned on the plane in an area below an area of the receiver between ~~an inner~~ the outer border of the ~~concave center inclined side surface~~ concave center unit and an outer border of the inclined side surface unit, and

an angle difference between a first direction from each candidate nozzle to the ~~center~~ axis of symmetry of the receiver and a second direction of a force to be provided to the receiver is equal to or less than a predetermined value, the first direction and the second direction being perpendicular to the direction of the jetting gas or liquid.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The force feedback method as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising the step of:

positioning the inclined side surface unit according to ~~[[the]]~~ a position or ~~[[the]]~~ an orientation of the receiver.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The force feedback method as claimed in Claim 1 or 2, further comprising the step of:

calculating a virtual object according to the position or the orientation of the receiver, so as to display a virtual space including the virtual object based on a result of the ~~calculation~~ calculating.

Claim 4 (Cancelled).

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A force feedback apparatus, comprising:

jetting means for jetting a gas or a liquid from a plurality of nozzles arranged in a plane,

receiver means including a concave center unit that declines radially outward from an axis of symmetry of the receiver means to an outer border of the concave center unit and an inclined side surface unit that inclines radially outward from the outer border of the concave center unit with respect to the axis of symmetry, the inclined side surface unit for conveying a force perpendicular to a direction of the jetting gas or liquid, the receiver means placed at a predetermined height above the plane, and

jet control means for selecting a nozzle from among a plurality of candidate nozzles arranged on the plane and controlling the jetting means for jetting the gas or the liquid from the selected nozzle, the selected nozzle having a smallest distance between the selected nozzle and ~~a center~~ the axis of symmetry of the receiver means, wherein

each of the plurality of candidate nozzles ~~being~~ is positioned on the plane in an area below an area of the receiver means between ~~an inner~~ the outer border of the concave center unit ~~inclined side surface means~~ and an outer border of the inclined side surface unit means, and

an angle difference between a first direction from each candidate nozzle to the ~~center~~ axis of symmetry of the receiver means and a second direction of a force to be provided to the receiver means is equal to or less than a predetermined value, the first direction and the second direction being perpendicular to the direction of the jetting gas or liquid.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The force feedback apparatus as claimed in Claim 5, further comprising:

a deformation mechanism means for changing a position or an orientation of the inclined side surface unit means, and

receiver inclined side surface control means for controlling the deformation mechanism according to the position or the orientation of the receiver means, as measured by a receiver measurement means.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The force feedback apparatus as claimed in Claim 5 or 6, further comprising:

virtual object calculation means for calculating a virtual object in a virtual space according to the position or the orientation of the receiver means, as measured by the receiver measurement means, and for causing a virtual object display means to display the virtual space including the virtual object based on a result of the calculation.

Claim 8 (Cancelled).

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A non-transitory computer readable storage medium  
[[for]] storing a program for causing a computer to realize a force feedback method, the  
program, when executed by a processor of the computer, causing the computer to execute the  
steps of:

~~placing a receiver at a predetermined height above a plurality of nozzles arranged on a  
plane,~~

selecting a nozzle from among a plurality of candidate nozzles arranged on [[the]] a  
plane, the selected nozzle having a smallest distance between the selected nozzle and a center  
axis of a receiver, the receiver including a concave center unit that declines radially outward  
from an axis of symmetry of the receiver to an outer border of the concave center unit and an  
inclined side surface unit that inclines radially outward from the outer border of the concave  
center unit with respect to the axis of symmetry,

jetting a gas or a liquid from the selected nozzle upon [[an]] the inclined side surface  
unit of the receiver to convey a force in a direction perpendicular to a direction of the jetting  
gas or liquid, wherein

each of the plurality of candidate nozzles is positioned on the plane in an area below  
an area of the receiver between ~~an inner~~ the outer border of the concave center ~~inclined side  
surface~~ unit and an outer border of the inclined side surface unit, and

an angle difference between a first direction from each candidate nozzle to the ~~center~~  
axis of symmetry of the receiver and a second direction of a force to be provided to the  
receiver is equal to or less than a predetermined value, the first direction and the second  
direction being perpendicular to the direction of the jetting gas or liquid.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The non-transitory computer readable storage medium storing a program as claimed in Claim 9, the program further causing the computer to execute the steps of:

changing a position or an orientation of the inclined side surface unit according to the position or the orientation of the receiver, as measured by a receiver measurement unit.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The non-transitory computer readable storage medium storing a program as claimed in Claim 9 or 10, the program further causing the computer to execute the steps of:

calculating a virtual object in a virtual space according to the position or the orientation of the receiver, as measured by the receiver measurement unit, and

causing a virtual space display means to display the virtual space including the virtual object based on a result of the calculation.

Claim 12 (Cancelled).

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A force feedback method, comprising:

selecting one or more of a plurality of nozzles arranged in a plane;

jetting a gas or a liquid from the selected one or more nozzles upon a center of a receiver to convey a force in a direction of the jetting gas or liquid, the receiver including a concave center unit that declines radially outward from an axis of symmetry of the receiver to an outer border of the concave center unit and an inclined side surface unit that inclines radially outward from the outer border of the concave center unit with respect to the axis of symmetry; and

jetting the gas or the liquid from the selected one or more nozzles upon ~~[[an]]~~ the inclined side surface unit of the receiver to convey a force in a direction perpendicular to the direction of the jetting gas or liquid.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A force feedback apparatus, comprising:  
a plurality of nozzles arranged in a plane, each nozzle to jet a gas or a liquid;  
a receiver including a concave center unit that declines radially outward from an axis of symmetry of the receiver to an outer border of the concave center unit to convey a force in a direction of the jet gas or liquid and including an inclined side surface unit that inclines radially outward from the outer border of the concave center unit with respect to the axis of symmetry to convey a force perpendicular to the direction of the jet gas or liquid; and  
a controller to control one or more of the plurality nozzles to jet the gas or the liquid upon the ~~receiver~~ concave center unit and the ~~receiver~~ inclined side surface unit.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A non-transitory computer readable storage medium storing ~~therein~~ a program, which, when executed by a computer processor, causes the computer to execute a force feedback method, comprising the steps of:

selecting one or more of a plurality of nozzles arranged in a plane;  
jetting a gas or a liquid from the selected one or more nozzles upon a concave center unit of a receiver to convey a force in a direction of the jetting gas or liquid; and  
jetting the gas or the liquid from the selected one or more nozzles upon an inclined side surface unit of the receiver to convey a force in a direction perpendicular to the direction of the jetting gas or liquid, the concave center unit of the receiver declining radially outward from an axis of symmetry of the receiver to an outer border of the concave center unit and the

inclined side surface unit inclining radially outward from the outer border of the concave center unit with respect to the axis of symmetry.